(d) the number of universities conforming to the criteria of quality education; and

(e) whether in view of obvious resource crunch, public private partnership system could be a workable alternative for establishing centers of academic excellence?

THIS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir, However, the existing Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for the relevant age group is 9.7% (2006-07).

(b) It is proposed that enrolment in the higher education be increased to achieve the targeted GER of 15% by the end of the XIth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The UGC provides grants to those Institutions, which meet the minimum standards prescribed by it. In addition, the UGC provides assistance to Universities, Departments/Centres and Colleges with potential for excellence. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an inter-university Centre of the UGC, accredits Universities and Colleges. The NAAC has so far assessed 50% of the Universities and 20% of the Colleges. Accreditation by NAAC is not compulsory.

(e) Private not-for-profit participation in higher education is permissible under the national policy.

New Central Universities in the country

200. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI P.R. RAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to link higher education with the emerging knowledge economy, Government propose to have 30 Central Universities, 14 of which would deliver world class education, by following Jawaharlal Nehru University as the model;

(b) if so, whether the proposed Central Universities would adopt a common entrance test, in order to bring the element of uniformity;

(c) the present Central share, in percentage, of the total Government expenditure on higher education in percentage, to State Government's contribution; and

(d) the progress Government have made so far in this direction, indicating the likely budgetary allocations during 2007 to 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) It is proposed to establish 30 Central Universities during the XIth Plan and the first two years of the XIIth Plan period, subject to the Plan being finalized.

(b) While a common entrance test would be desirable, in keeping with the NCMP commitment of the autonomy, any such decision would be taken by the concerned Universities after they come into existence.

(c) An estimated 20% of the budgeted expenditure on higher education is met currently by the Central Government.

(d) Action for establishment, in the first phase, of one Central University in each of the 16 States which do not have a Central University so far has already been

initiated. The Financial requirement of these Universities is estimated at Rs. 4,800 crore during the 11th Plan period at an average of Rs. 300 crore per University.

Different patterns for CBSE, ICSE and State Boards

201. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that text books, examination system and curriculum are different among CBSE, ICSE and State Boards of Secondary Education, including Higher Education; if so, the details of each system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that students are facing problems in participating in merit examinations for higher studies;

(c) if so, whether students are also facing difficulties for admissions in schools/ colleges, when the parents get transferred from one State to other States; and

(d) if so, whether there is any problem before Government to have uniform text books, examination system and curriculum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Whereas all Examination Boards in the country follow the National Curriculum Framework, the detailed syllabi and text books differ from Board to Board to provide for localization and diversity. There are 41 School Examination Boards in the country at the secondary and higher secondary level including 3 national level Boards, *i.e.*, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council of Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) and National Institute of Open Schooling (N.I.O.S.).

As far as higher education is concerned, the Universities have their own academic autonomy with regard to curriculum, text books and examination system.

(b) All the Boards follow the national curriculum framework. However detailed syllabi and 'text books would vary. Such variation is not expected to introduce any barrier in participation in entrance tests for higher studies.

(c) There is a system of equivalence among different Boards in the country and hence students are not expected to face any difficulty in admission. However, syllabi and text books would change with change in Examination Board.

(d) No, Sir. Since Syllabi and text books need to be contextualised to be meaningful, there is no proposal to enforce any uniformity in text books and examination system.

Discrepancies in NCERT text book

†202. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supplementary text book for sixth standard published in June, 2006 by the National Council of Educational Research and Training states that "Nal had built a bridge within five days to go to Lanka"; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.